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SERVICE

NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
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November 27, 1940

No. 3



The SCS can do one mighty important thing to bolster national defense, but it's an easy kind of thing to overlook.

To most of us, the defense program is a matter of turning out arms and training men - a job of building ships and planes, tanks and guns, and soldiers to man them if there should be need.

But total defense against total war means more than men and machines. They are not enough. Behind the wall of steel we're putting up around this country, we've got to have a nation of people who know and believe in what they are defending.

So, as we build the battleships and guns and planes and tanks, we've also got to build the spirit of America - toughen up the spiritual fibres that knit us together in the social pattern called democracy.

What we need is a strong resurgence of our faith in democratic ways. We've got to rekindle the fire of our traditional beliefs.

One of the best ways to reaffirm these basic beliefs is to put them to work. People can't pin their faith and hopes to a set of empty phrases and hollow symbols. They need the chance to find out what the phrases really mean - the chance to work at democracy in practice - if they are going to believe in it.

And that's where the SCS comes in.

There are now more than 400 soil conservation districts in this country - four hundred organizations made up of farming people, created through democratic processes, operated through democratic processes, accomplishing democratic ends. That's the kind of thing we need, right now.

These districts provide an opportunity for millions of Americans to translate their fundamental beliefs into action - a chance to make Democracy work with their own hands, so to speak, and in a way they can fully understand.

Only too often, though, this side of the soil conservation districts movement is overlooked. We can do something about that, don't you think?

PASTURE COMMITTEES SEEK UNIFORM METHODS

Uniform methods for carrying on pasture research will be the subject of discussion when the Pasture Committees of the three societies -- American Society of Agronomy, American Society of Animal Production, and Dairy Science Association -- meet in joint session at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, on December 3. Since these associations have members from Canada, it is expected that the work of the Committees will be applied not only in the United States but also in Canada.

SCS is represented on the Pasture Committees by C. R. Enlow, Chief of the Agronomy Division, who functions as a member of the American Society of Agronomy, and by A. T. Semple, Head of the Pastures Section, who is a member of the American Society of Animal Production.

SCS TECHNICIANS GO TO CHICAGO MEETINGS

SCS will be represented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy and the American Society of Animal Production which are convening in Chicago during the last week of November and the first week in December. The American Society of Animal Production holds its meetings at the Sherman Hotel on November 29 and 30; the American Society of Agronomy will have its sessions at the Drake Hotel on December 4, 5 and 6.

H. H. Finnell of Region 6, in a Regional Conservator's Letter to his personnel, states "Any popularity of and demands for the service of our organization are the results of quality performance, and quality performance must be maintained, regardless of whether it permits us to assist in the conservation of one million acres of land or four million acres of land this year, if we are to continue to merit the confidence of the agricultural public."

CHEST PLEDGES PASS THE HALF WAY MARK

A report at noon of November 20 on the progress of the Community Chest campaign in the Washington office of SCS indicated that, with the campaign more than half completed, 53 percent of the personnel had pledged 54 percent of the Service's quota of Chest funds. If the remaining 47 percent of the employees do as well as their fellow members, the Service will go over the top this year in contributions subscribed.

The standing of the various branches of the Service in their Chest contributions is indicated in the table below.

<u>Branch of Service and Leader</u>	<u>No. of Employees</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>No. of Pledges</u>	<u>Amount of Pledges</u>	<u>Percent of Employees Giving</u>	<u>Percent of Quota</u>
Administration F. W. Darnell	391	\$2020	176	\$1184.50	45%	59%
Coop. Relations Harold Anthony	70	622	54	496.00	77	80
Research W. J. Roth	95	1051	49	460.66	52	44
Surv. & Proj. Pls. J. M. Snyder	222	1624	120	708.50	54	44
Tech. Operations H. C. Diener	60	802	43	472.50	72	59
TOTAL	838	\$6119	442	\$3322.16	53	54

F. W. Darnell is doing an outstanding job with the campaign in the branch of Administration where 45 percent of the employees have subscribed 59 percent of their quota. This record is particularly noteworthy since the major portion of the employees of Administration are in the clerical classifications and are therefore in the lower salary brackets.

Elsa Bradley, who is one of the campaign workers in charge of a unit of Cooperative Relations and Information, also has chalked up an excellent record. She has obtained nearly 100 percent of the quota for her unit.

Attention has been called to the fact that approximately 20 percent of last year's pledges remain unpaid. The key workers will be glad to receive payments on these old accounts. The committee would like to wind up the year with all obligations of this kind fully paid.

Samuel Goodacre, chairman of the SCS Community Chest Committee, and his coworkers are making a final plea to the Washington employees that they give serious thought to making a substantial contribution to the Chest program. They are asking that each member of the Service think of the good fortune of even the lowest paid employee in comparison to hundreds of persons whom we see almost daily and who, through no fault of their own, are temporarily "down on their luck." No matter how much we may think we are beset with financial worries, we need only pause to look around and find many who are having a tougher time than we. To these unfortunates, the Chest means a helping hand to health and a measure of security. To the more fortunate who can give, the Chest is an aid to better social conditions in the city in which they live and work.

The SERVICE NEWS would like to hear from field offices of the Service which are located in cities where there are Community Chests in operation. We should like to know how you have succeeded with your campaigns for Chest subscriptions. Will you send this information to us?

RAMSPECK BILL IS READY FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

The Ramspeck Bill (H.R. 960) which authorizes the President to cover into classified civil service practically all employees now exempt, except those holding policy forming positions, received final approval in both Senate and House on November 19. The measure will now go to the White House.

The SERVICE NEWS will carry in a later issue a story of what effect the bill may have upon non-civil service positions within SCS.

NEW CCC ENROLLEE EDUCATION COURSE

"Soil Conservation Agronomy" is the title of a new illustrated unit course for CCC enrollee education written by Allan T. Leffler, area agronomist in the Ohio Valley Region. The unit includes 11 separate lessons and is illustrated with drawings. The photographs were reproduced by multilith.

Those interested in securing a copy of the lessons should address their requests to R. H. Moorish, Chief of the Regional Agronomy Division at Dayton, Ohio.

SCS SPEEDS LAND BUYING
FOR MILITARY PROJECTS
IN THE DEFENSE PROGRAM

Less than ninety days after an agreement was reached between the War Department and this Department that the Land Acquisition Division of the Soil Conservation Service should purchase land in connection with various military projects, approximately 18,000 acres of land under option had been made available to the Army for immediate use in connection with the expanding National Defense program.

The first land secured is located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was made available to the War Department on October 1. The first option was taken on land at the Amarillo Beacon Site, Texas, where approximately 10 acres were optioned. Other points at which land is being acquired and the acreage involved are: Fort Bliss, Texas, 51,000 acres; Fort Sill, Oklahoma, 19,500 acres; Fort Devens, Massachusetts, 6,500 acres; Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, 5,000 acres; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin 1,000 acres; Pine Camp Reservation, New York, 1,600 acres; Munition Storage Depot, Calhoun County, Alabama, 10,600 acres; and the Anti-Aircraft Training and Firing Center, Hinesville, Georgia, 360,000 acres. Single tract acreages are also being purchased at several points.

The work of appraising, optioning, clearing titles, and payment of land designated by the War Department for purchase is being handled by the Washington staff of the Land Acquisition Division under the direct supervision of its chief, James M. Gray. The regional and area offices have given excellent cooperation in the procurement of space and the loan of clerical and other help to the Washington staff while in the field. The experience in land buying gained during the past several years has made it possible to bring into use every short-cut in the purchase of land for the Federal Government and to establish an economic, expeditious and efficient system of land acquisition at a time when speed is essential to the smooth working of the Army's training program. The work is so geared that the Land Acquisition staff has not yet reached its capacity peak, but is able to initiate action immediately on land purchases as orders come through from the War Department.

Shane MacCarthy, who was Chief of the Service Operations Division, has resigned in order to become the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Advisory Committee to the Council of National Defense. C. G. Kinney, Head of the Procurement, Contracts and Space Section, is now acting chief of the Service Operations Division.

66 EMPLOYEES GRANTED
FURLONGHS FOR MILITARY
TRAINING AND SERVICE

Sixty-six employees of the SCS have already answered the call to serve Uncle Sam in the various branches of military service. In accordance with existing policies, these employees have been granted furloughs for military training and service, and their positions in SCS will be held open for them until the conclusion of their furloughs.

It is expected that the number of employees who will be called to military training and service will be greatly increased in the next few months as registrants are selected under the draft. A list of the SCS personnel who up to the present time have been granted military furloughs is given below:

Washington, D.C. - James G. Daniel, Hans G. Jepson, Edward J. Thomas, William Fellner.

Region I - Ira A. Hawk, Arthur T. Roth.

Region II - Mont Hubbard, Charles M. Bowling, Jr., Allie Stuart Povall, Allison H. Stephenson, George E. Cubberly, Edwin L. Shull, Guy V. Whetstone, James W. Burdette, Neill F. Price, Raymond C. Luna, Robert W. Andrews, John Wharton Keller, Morris J. Keese, Jr., Frank E. Haskell.

Region III - John F. Reineck, Charles L. Baum, Oswald R. Hummel, James S. Corbitt.

Region IV - John T. Phares, Charles R. Moose, Ruby R. Nance, Jr., Phillip S. Rahill, Andrew R. Cheek, Wilbur E. Laird, Basil Shirley, Gerald D. Coleman, William H. Witt, Dixie G. Hall, Arlis D. Foster, Samuel W. Stribling, Martin W. Steward, Winston P. Wilson, Jr., James H. Bash, Earl C. Reid, Richard D. Butts, Sam A. Dance.

Region V - Ralph K. Hallett, Charles H. Tustison, Howard B. Moreland, Raymond A. Sullivan, Wm. O. Cribbs.

Region VI - Calvin F. Finn.

Region VII - Kenneth L. Butler, Jr., Walter L. Hermanson, Austin P. Richardson, Donald A. Sanders.

Region VIII - Richard H. Buvens, Joe Fishback, Raymond L. Morris, Guy H. Murphy, Melvin C. O'Donnal, Gordon B. Page, Alexander K. Parker, Jr., Walter S. Schlotzhauer, Jr., Ray R. Wood.

Region IX - Frederick W. Hershey, Francis H. LaMarre, Ivan W. Weikel.

Region X - Leo P. d'Artenay, Otto E. Kneuer.

NATIONAL DEFENSE NEWS

David Meeker of BAE's Division of Program Development and Coordination has been named by Secretary Wickard to work with the Selective Service System as adviser on agricultural occupational deferments. There will be no standardized national procedure to say that one type of farmer or one type of farm worker will be deferred. Occupational deferments will be granted on the basis of the man's replaceability, which can be determined only by the local board. With Meeker's assistance, however, Selective Service is giving special attention to peak seasonal farm labor requirements. Maps of the country have been prepared which show regions and dates of peak labor requirements, such as cotton-picking time in the South. The Selective Service System has been furnished with 350 sets of these maps together with supplementary explanations. Local boards have been advised to give consideration to applications of deferments so as to avoid unnecessary curtailment of farm labor at times when the labor load is heaviest.

At least 2,000,000 more persons will be employed next year than in 1940, it is predicted by BAE. This will be due to increased business and industrial activity resulting largely from national defense spending.

On the Pan-American front, Federal Loan Administrator Jones has announced that the Export-Import Bank has approved a credit of \$25,000,000 to the Bank of Brazil to cover purchases in the United States. The credit, on a revolving basis, is available in amounts not exceeding \$5,000,000 per month. Each installment is repayable in six months.

Agricultural cooperation with the South and Central American Republics is being furthered by a new division in the USDA to work with the Department of State and private concerns to coordinate all phases of the program for encouraging production of crops that complement those of the United States, particularly rubber. Included in the program of the new unit, the Division of Latin American Agriculture, are field investigations of the Bureau of Plant Industry and other science bureaus, the loan program of the Export-Import Bank, and the interchange of agricultural experts and scientists between the Americas.

NATIONAL DEFENSE NEWS

To eliminate reshipments of vital materials, the Metals Reserve Company and tin and ore producers of Bolivia signed a contract for delivery to the U. S. of tin and ore and concentrates sufficient to produce 18,000 tons of fine tin each year for the next five years, and the RFC announced it would arranged for the construction of tin smelters in this country. Heretofore, Bolivian ore and concentrates have gone to Great Britain for smelting. The new arrangement will enable the development of a tin industry within the Western Hemisphere.

Declaring that defense officials are concerned by "dwindling supplies and rising prices of domestic wood which have resulted from heavy military purchases," the War Department announced the removal of a ban on purchases of clothing and uniforms made from wool of foreign origin. The Department predicted that wool imports from South America and Australia would be increased and that "undue speculative activity" in domestic wool would be checked.

Transfer of the Arlington Experimental Farm to the control of the Army, as provided for in a Congressional bill recently signed by the President, will be effected as soon as practical details can be completed.

The farm is to be used to quarter troops assigned to the Washington area. The Army already has taken over 75 acres, and the remaining 325 acres (roughly) have been placed at the Army's disposal pending actual removal of Department of Agriculture activities.

The Arlington Farm has been in use as an experimental station for 40 years. The Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine all have important units there.

Pan-American unity was implemented by discussion at a meeting of land-grant college representatives of recommendations by President Roosevelt's Committee on Inter-American Cooperation on Agricultural Education to promote exchange of agricultural students and information; agreement of the U. S. Office of Education to collect a list of all scholarships and fellowships available in the U. S. to Latin-American students; announcement by the State Department that Vice-President-elect Wallace and a group of Congressmen would attend the inauguration of Mexican President Camacho; a decision to simplify Canadian-American border crossing regulations and a reception by President Roosevelt of a group of Latin-American journalists cited in recognition of their efforts to promote understanding among the Republics.

60 WPA SOIL CONSERVATION
PROJECTS ARE SPONSORED BY
DISTRICTS IN 14 STATES

As November draws to a close, there are 60 WPA Soil Conservation Projects being sponsored by soil conservation districts in 14 States. Eight thousand WPA workers are to be engaged in pushing forward soil and moisture conservation programs within districts involving approximately 35 million acres of land within these projects.

Among the types of work that district supervisors have outlined for WPA labor are such jobs as terrace outlet and waterway construction; running terrace lines; gully protection work; building diversion and engineering structures to properly dispose of highway water; protection of highways from water draining off farm land; woodland management demonstrations, including tree planting and fire protection; construction of water ponds; drainage work; stream bank erosion control; treatment of critical slopes; certain pasture work pertinent to soil conservation; limited fencing work to facilitate other work mentioned above; and establishment of erosion control cover, which will also serve as wildlife areas.

Soil conservation districts in Oklahoma and Arkansas have taken the lead in using WPA labor as part of the assistance to farmers in carrying out erosion-control programs. District governing bodies in Oklahoma have set up 14 WPA projects, while in Arkansas, 15 such projects are now advanced to the stage of operations. A complete list of the States in which WPA soil conservation projects are now operating is included in the table below.

WPA SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECTS SPONSORED BY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

State	No. WPA Projects	Employment Called For	Total Cost Of Project*
Maryland	2	167	\$ 115,218
N. Carolina	4	667	312,159
S. Carolina	8	2,563	1,439,995
Michigan	1	133	90,906
Arkansas	15	1,688	699,941
Louisiana	4	353	211,923
Oklahoma	14	1,645	690,205
Wisconsin	1	67	40,771
N. Dakota	1	44	27,191
S. Dakota	3	89	61,130
New Mexico	3	184	138,642
Virginia	1	251	131,123
Georgia	2	85	41,295
Mississippi	1	64	30,256
14 States	60	8,000	\$4,030,755

* Approximately 30 percent of project cost is accounted for by the sponsor (district).

Additional projects will be established in soil conservation districts in other States as plans can be worked out for the individual projects by the district governing bodies, with assistance from local officials of the Works Progress Administration and the SCS. At the present time 43 additional WPA soil conservation project proposals have been prepared by soil conservation districts, and it is expected that they will soon be ready for operations.

The WPA has recognized the good work which soil conservation districts are carrying on and appreciates that the public will benefit from the work undertaken by the districts. It is by such cooperation as is now established with the Department of Agriculture, the Works Progress Administration, and the State agencies that soil conservation districts will be able to go forward with the most beneficial and complete program.

SOIL CONSERVATION ARTICLES REPRINTED

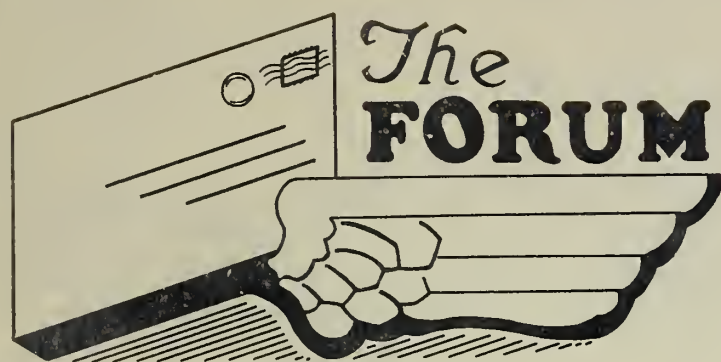
Three articles which appeared in the October educational issue of SOIL CONSERVATION are being reprinted and will be made available for use in schools. The articles which are being reprinted are "Land Use and the Modern School" by Julia B. Tappan; "The Curriculum and Soil Conservation" by Cyril W. Grace; and "The Land as a Textbook" by Anne Raymond.

"Ecology and Land Use" by Edward H. Graham, which appeared in the November issue of the magazine, is also being reprinted and will soon be available. Requests for copies of these articles should be addressed to Wellington Brink, editor of the magazine.

CHIEF IS SPEAKER AT 3 NOVEMBER MEETINGS

The Chief addressed the Midwest Wildlife Conference on November 14 at Urbana, Illinois, on the subject of "Soil Erosion Control and Its Relation to Wildlife Conservation." He spoke to the Farm Bureau Federation at Syracuse, New York, on November 27, and on November 29 he will be a guest at a dinner meeting of the Gunpowder Falls-Deer Creek Soil Conservation District, Harford County, Maryland, where he will discuss soil conservation work.

Dr. Bennett plans to attend the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy in Chicago from December 4 to 6. On the evening of December 6, he will address the Ohio Division, Izaak Walton League of America at Columbus, Ohio.



EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: I wish to explain briefly what boards of supervisors of several soil conservation districts in Eastern Oklahoma are doing at this time to facilitate the execution of their program.

A plan has been worked out with the teachers of vocational agriculture that is proving very successful for all concerned. The instructor is given a copy of every Farmer-District agreement that is written in his school district. The chairman of the board of supervisors ascertains from the farmer whether or not he is willing to cooperate with the teacher and the members of his class in this matter. The teacher assigns the agreement to a member of his class, preferably a boy who lives near the farm. The boy studies every phase of the agreement and becomes conversant with all of its provisions. He makes timely visits to the farm and goes over the program with the farmer, the progress being made and results being obtained. The boy makes a written report to his teacher who in turn reports to the board of supervisors. Sometimes a boy may have two or more farms which he studies, correlating what he learns in the class room with actual conditions found on the farms. The farmer feels that he is assistant instructor and cooperates willingly with the supervisors and teacher in giving the boy all the information possible. Sometimes the board holds its monthly meeting with the FFA boys to acquaint the boys with district operations and to receive reports from the boys. The results of such a program are manifold: The boy is taught practical conservation; he learns at first hand the objectives of a district program; the farmer feels that he is making a definite contribution to the youth program and at the same time is encouraged to do a little better job of execution. It is expected that much of the compliance check-up will be done with help of the FFA boys. SCS technicians meet with classes to explain agreements and program.

These same boards of supervisors have made arrangements whereby radio salutes are given regularly during the Farm Program Hour over two radio stations. These salutes are about three minutes in length and relate what individual farmers have done in the way of conservation. The supervisors have found that it pays to give recognition to a job well done.

Signed: L.J.M.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have received several letters addressed to The Forum which have dealt with administrative matters that involved more than one Federal agency. While we wish to keep The Forum open for discussion of matters of vital interest, even though controversial, we believe we should confine the letters to matters which pertain strictly to SCS work and administration.

PRINTERS' INK

Dr. Guy R. Stewart, Senior Soil Conservationist, has two articles appearing in the *Scientific Monthly* concerning "Conservation in Pueblo Agriculture." In the September issue, Dr. Stewart discusses primitive practices of the Pueblo tribes, and in the October issue he writes of present-day flood water irrigation in the Pueblo country.

In the October issue of *Ecology*, William E. Cooper, Assistant Forester at Aiken, S.C., writes on "Frost Heaving and Damage to Black Locust Seedlings."

National 4-H Club News, November, features an article by Charles B. Maits, Associate Information Specialist at Upper Darby, entitled "Saved Their Land." Mr. Maits tells how two 4-H boys stopped erosion on their father's Maryland farm.

An excellent review of Dr. Bennett's book, "Soil Conservation", appears in the November issue of *Better Crops and Plant Food*

The *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy* published in its October issue an article on "The Use of Forage-Acre Requirements in Range Surveys" by R. R. Humphrey of the Pacific Northwest Region.

Kenneth S. Davis has recounted the story of the Big Creek watershed, located in northern Missouri and southern Iowa, in an article entitled "Taking the Road Back to Soil Fertility" which appears in the November issue of *Better Crops and Plant Food*.

Lansing A. Parker has written an article "Conservation Farming Includes Wildlife" for the *Conservation Volunteer*, Official publication of the Minnesota Department of Conservation. The *Volunteer* is a new pocket-size magazine which the Department recently started, having discontinued publication last spring of their original magazine, *Minnesota Conservationist*.

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LOST BOOK

Will the individual having in his possession Rand McNally World Atlas, Premier edition, copy 34, please notify the Service Library?

FIELD MEMORANDA

Oct. 31 - Nov. 25

962 Reemployment Lists (Civil Service and Non-Civil Service).

963 Unofficial Work